

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (new) An installation for the remote individual monitoring of at least two heterogeneous industrial production apparatuses that are located on separate industrial sites that are spaced from one another, the installation comprising:

a remote monitoring station; and

wherein each of said heterogeneous apparatuses that are located on separate industrial sites that are spaced from one another performs a different industrial production function and comprises,

record means for recording information relating to the operation of said apparatus,

means for monitoring said apparatus, and

communication means connected to said record means and to said remote monitoring station for communicating the recorded information from said apparatus to said remote monitoring station and for sending, on its own initiative, an alarm to said remote monitoring station,

wherein said communication means of each said apparatus comprises a computer with a program for processing control data received from said remote monitoring station and for structuring the recorded information in a predetermined first format, the first format being independent of a type of said apparatus and of the recorded information; and

wherein said remote monitoring station comprises,

processing means for processing the recorded information received from each said apparatus in the first format,

generating means for generating the control data for controlling each said apparatus,

second formatting means for structuring the control data in a predetermined second format, the second format being independent of a type of said apparatus to be controlled and of the control data, and

transmission means for transmitting the formatted control data to said communication means of each said apparatus.

12. (new) The installation according to claim 11, wherein said computer of each said communication means comprises an interface coupled to a data transmission network to which said remote monitoring station is connected.

13. (new) The installation according to claim 12, wherein said network is a telephone network.

14. (new) A system for remote monitoring of plural heterogeneous industrial production apparatuses that are located on separate industrial sites that are spaced from one another, the system comprising:

a monitor remote from the separate industrial sites where the heterogeneous industrial production apparatuses are located;

at least two industrial production apparatuses that are located on separate industrial sites that are spaced from one another and that each perform a different industrial production function; and

a station at each of the industrial production apparatuses being monitored by said remote monitor, each said station comprising,

a sensor that receives and records operating information from a respective one of said apparatuses,

a first communication device connected to said sensor and to said monitor that communicates the operating information from said respective apparatus to said monitor, said sensor and said first communication device being arranged and adapted to send automatically an alarm to said monitor based on the operating information,

said first communication device having a first processor that, before communicating the operating information, formats the operating information into a first format that is independent of a type of said respective apparatus and of the operating information, and

said monitor comprising a second communication device that communicates with each said first communication device and that has a second processor that processes the operating information from each said first communication device received in the first format and that generates control data for controlling each said apparatus through a respective said station, said second processor being arranged and adapted to format the control data in a second format that is independent of a type of said apparatus to be controlled and of the control data.